

In the Specification:

Please replace the following amended paragraphs:

Page 2, paragraph 1, lines 1 to 6 insert the following paragraph:

The inherent problem with a reciprocating knife is the fact the sickle moves back and forth in a sinusoidal pattern. As a result, after the sickle finishes a cut, it decelerates, stops, ~~than~~ then accelerates in the opposite direction. During this time there is no cutting being done and crop is gathered between the guard points and bent forward until the sickle makes its next cut. Therefore increased travel speeds result is a ragged or long stubble.

The paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8, page 7 paragraph 8, lines 16 to 23 and page 8, paragraph 1, lines 1 to 3, insert the following paragraph.

In the embodiment shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3, a generally conventional cutter bar and sickle knife assembly is shown and the details of this are not included since the design of the cutter bar and sickle knife can be modified in accordance with many different requirements as is well known to one skilled in the art. In general the cutter bar 30 comprises ~~a actual~~ an elongate bar member 31 to which the sickle knife is attached which is carried on a structural member 32 at the forward end of a crop harvesting machine 33. In the embodiment shown the cutter bar forms part of a header having header frame members 34 and the crop transport mechanism 35 in the form of a draper 36. However again the construction and arrangement of the header itself can vary in accordance with the type of equipment with which the sickle knife is to be used.

Page 9, paragraph 2, lines 3 to 8 insert the following paragraph:

In the arrangement of the present invention, a second sickle 20 is provided which includes a second bar 21 and second knife blades 22. The first and second sickles in the embodiment shown are identical and symmetrical with the exception that one is inverted relative to the other so that the bar 11 is on the top of the blades 12 and the bar 21 is on the bottom of the blades 22. The second sickle is drive driven by a second drive as indicated at drive 2 in Figure 1.

Page 9, paragraph 5, lines 18 to 20 insert the following paragraph:

Symmetrically the bottom blades 22 have a chamfered edge 25 ~~which is visible~~ for providing a cutting action relative to the bottom surface of the slot 47 against the side surfaces of the guards.

Page 10, paragraph 4, lines 14 to 15 insert the following paragraph:

The two sickles are driven at a phase difference which in the embodiment shown is exactly 90 degrees. ~~However the~~

Page 12, paragraph 3, lines 11 to 22 insert the following paragraph:

As the leading edge L1 moves toward the guard 40B, the actual cutting point P which is the intersection between the leading edge L1 and the side surface 45B moves outwardly along the side surface 45B thus cutting the material in the space between the leading edge L1 and the side surface 45B. The blade 22 after reaching the end of its stroke on the center line of the guard 40B starts to accelerate and move in the reverse direction so that its trailing edge T becomes the leading edge in the reverse operation. It is necessary therefore to ensure that the point P moves outwardly of the guard before the intersection of the edge T with the same surface 45B reaches the same position. Thus at all times during the cutting action, ~~the cutting action,~~ in the

arrangement as shown, cutting occurs with the side surface 45B since that portion of the edge T which projects beyond the surface 45B is rearward of the point P.

Page 13, paragraph 1, lines 1 to 11 insert the following paragraph:

As the further movement continues until the blade 12 is contained with the guard 40B, the blade 22 emerges from the guard 40B and its edge T which has become the leading edge moves toward the left across the blade 12 until it becomes exposed beyond the edge 45B and becomes a cutting edge which can co-operate with the side surface 46A of the guard 40A. The movement in the opposite direction is exactly symmetrical since the blade 12 will again move across the space between the guards at a phase delay relative to the blade 22. Again therefore, in this arrangement, the same co-operation will occur between the leading and trailing edges of the blades so that all cutting action of the leading edge of the blade will occur relative to the side surface of the guard rather than relative to the other of the blades.

The paragraph bridging pages 14 and 15, page 14 paragraph 5, lines 22 to 23 and page 15, paragraph 1, lines 1 to 13, insert the following paragraph.

In Figure 4 is shown an alternative form of guard which can be used in replacement for the guard of Figure 2. In this embodiment the guard is of the type formed in two pieces with a bottom guard portion 60 mounted on the cutter bar 31 by bolts 42A. An upper guard portion or hold down 61 holds the blades 24 12 and 22 in their superposed positions as previously described. The upper portion 61 is clamped onto a bar 63 by the bolt 42A. Adjustment of the bar 63 relative to the cutter bar 31 can be obtained in conventional manner by adjusting set screws 64 and 65. This ~~this~~ adjusts the spacing and angle of the upper portion 61 relative to the lower portion 60 so

as to adjust the width and angle of the slot 66 defined therebetween. The lower portion 60 carries the nose 67 in front of the guard with the forward end of the upper portion terminating at the forward end of the slot 66 and just behind the nose 67. This arrangement may be desirable to obtain easier adjustment of the slot 66 to best guide and receive the superposed blades which run in contact on their inner surfaces but cut relative to cutting edges at the top and bottom of the slot 66 as previously described.